

***Libellula luctuosa* Burmeister**

Widow Skimmer

20 May - 8 Oct

Common

42-50 mm (1.7-2.0 in.)

Medium

MALE: Thorax: black, somewhat hairy; pruinosity. Abdomen: white/blue pruinosity. Wings: basal ½ black, then large opaque white spots; tips clear. Legs: black. Appendages: blackish.

FEMALE: Body: dark, w/ lateral yellow stripes. Wings: no opaque white spots next to dark basal areas, tips smoky. Stigmas: dark.

JUVENILE: Body: like F. FWs: small amount of black. HWs: basal 1/2 black.

Habitat: Ponds, small lakes, marshes. Forages in fields/open habitat. Perches obliquely on stems.

Reproduction: Male defends small territory w/ slow fluttery patrols. Female oviposits alone; drops eggs into pond water. Exuviae in long grass on bank.

Notes: Old name: Pied Skimmer, Widow.

Locations: Alpha Ridge - P3-4/TcP, Avalon, APL - BP, Benson Branch, Big Branch, Brown's Bridge, Carmax, Cattail, Cedar Lane, Centennial - L/S/VP, Corridor, David Force, Dunteachin Farm, Elkhorn - L/VB, Farm Ponds, Folly Qtr - MS, Font Hill, Frederick Road, Fulton Schools, Gateway - AE/RF/SM, Guilford GV/Park, Gwynn Acres - BR, Henryton, Hipsely Mill, Homespun, Hugg-Thomas #1/#2, Kindler - P/D, Kittamaquindi, Jackson Pond, Long Corner - P, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, Mayfield Woods - P/GG, Meadowbrook, MPEA - P1/P2/P3/P4, Milk Plant - LP/Schools, Mission - US1, Mount Pleasant, Nichols Cove, Old Frederick, Pigtail, Plum Tree, River Hill HS, Rockburn, Sewell's Orchard, Stanford, Starting Gate, Savage Mill, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Scott's Cove, Sewell's Orchard, Stevens - E, UMDCF - S, Upper Triadelphia, VFW Pond, Warfield's Pond, Wesley Lane, West Friendship, Western Regional, Wincopin, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)